In 2004, Nichole Isaac began her career at the University of Illinois in the Office of the Vice President for Technology and Economic Development, now called the Vice President for Research. In 2011, she joined the College of Engineering in the Shared Business Services Center. Nichole joined the Department of Crop Sciences as Assistant Head in September 2012. She lives in Champaign with her husband David and son Braden. Nichole’s office is located in AW-101 Turner Hall. Welcome, Nichole! We’re happy to have you on board!

Dr. Sam Wortman and his wife, Suk, moved to Champaign in June of this year from Gretna, NE. He received both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Agronomy from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Previous research experience included projects on ecological weed management, cover crop mixtures, and organic cropping systems. Areas of research focus at UIUC will include intensive urban and peri-urban food production and pest management, crop ecophysiology, and soil assessment and remediation for urban agriculture. He will be teaching Introduction to Horticulture HORT 100 in the spring semester.

The 56th annual Agronomy Day—an event held every year since 1957—provided unparalleled opportunities for growers, industry representatives, business owners, researchers, and the public to discover the latest research findings from the Department of Crop Sciences. From plant breeding and pest control to biomass production and horticulture, our department is leading the way in education, research, and extension.

Around 850 people attended the 2012 Agronomy Day even though stormy weather caused the tours to end early. To view more photos of Agronomy Day and to sign up to be on the Agronomy Day mailing list, visit our website at http://agronomyday.cropsci.illinois.edu/
### The Department of Crop Sciences Welcomes You!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position and Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jean Haley</td>
<td>Visiting Evaluation Specialist working for Sue Ratcliffe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Hosier</td>
<td>Visiting Project Manager working for Rick Weinzierl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Lotzgesell</td>
<td>Works for Dr. Fred Kolb as Office Manager of Undergraduate Services. Joined Crop Sciences in June. Laura’s office located in AE-120 Turner Hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Mansfield</td>
<td>Research Agronomist and Farm Manager at the Northwestern Illinois Agricultural Research and Demonstration Center in Monmouth, IL. Brian was a former graduate student of Rita Mumm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Mitsdarfer</td>
<td>Visiting Research Specialist at the Research Education Center at the South Farms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Pike</td>
<td>Visiting Research Specialist at Dixon Springs Agricultural Center. John began working for Steve Ebelhar on September 1 on agronomic crops research and extension activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Rudisill</td>
<td>Visiting Research Specialist in Agronomy working for Fabián Fernández.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Steckel</td>
<td>Research Agronomist and Farm Manager at the Northern Illinois Agronomy Research Center in DeKalb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy White</td>
<td>Undergraduate Recruiter. Her office located at AE-116 Turner Hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gevan Behnke</td>
<td>Visiting Research Specialist in Agroecology. Working with Maria Villamil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zachary Grant</td>
<td>Visiting Research Specialist at the Fruit Research Farm on Race St. in Urbana. He was a former graduate student of Mosbah Kushad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Yang and Ian Chong</td>
<td>Co-managers of the Consolidated Computer Services Group (CCSG). Gordon, who recently joined Crop Sciences, administers servers and desktops for CCSG and helps ensure faculty computing needs are met. Ian serves as network and system administrator and provides desktop support. For best support, and to help them keep track of problems, request assistance by using the new webform located on the following web pages: <a href="http://cropsci.illinois.edu/ccsg">http://cropsci.illinois.edu/ccsg</a> <a href="http://techsupport.aces.illinois.edu">http://techsupport.aces.illinois.edu</a> You can also email the CCSG help desk at <a href="mailto:ds-ccsg@illinois.edu">ds-ccsg@illinois.edu</a> to report problems or ask questions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Did you know?

**Tracey Malkovich** can now be found in the administrative office (AW-101) in Turner. She handles the daily mail and packages, and any F&S requests. Laura Lotzgesell (AE-120) is the person to contact if you need a room reserved for a study session or exam, a new CRN generated, class scheduling, copies for teaching, and other undergraduate services.
Michael Plewa, Ph.D. Professor of Genetics and University Scholar. Michael began at the University of Illinois as a D.F. Jones Postdoctoral Fellow from Research Corporation, working with Dr. D.E. Alexander in 1974 in the Department of Agronomy. He retired on June 30, 2012 but is continuing to work in his laboratory nearly full time. Currently has 3 federal grants (NSF, USGS, US EPA), and two international grants (KAUST and Shell Oil) with funding to 2015.

Elizabeth D. Wagner, Ph.D. Principal Research Specialist. She began working at the University of Illinois as an Assistant Research Geneticist in the Institute for Environmental Studies in 1976. She retired June 30, 2012. Elizabeth will continue her research in the laboratory on a part-time basis and will write papers.

Ralph Esgar started working for the University of Illinois in 1984 as an Assistant Agronomist. Ralph retired on June 30th from the Variety Testing Program.

Bill Shoemaker was hired in 1982 as an Assistant Horticulturist. Bill retired on June 30th as the Farm Manager of the St. Charles Horticulture Research Center.

Personals

To everyone who shared comforting sentiments and kind gestures to my family and me during our time of grief, thank you. Your thoughts, prayers, and acts of kindness were sincerely appreciated. ~ Aaron Hager

A recent note from Charlie Smyth:
I didn’t retire, just changed to being a full time politician campaigning for Champaign County Clerk… my garden is now more neglected than it was during the peak demand periods while “working.”

A fresh take on takeout

University Catering proudly introduces Good to Go, a takeout alternative with University Catering quality!

Available from the Illini Union Ballroom on the 2nd floor of the Illini Union, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm weekdays. Good to Go offers a variety of selections daily.

www.housing.illinois.edu/GoodtoGo
STEPHEN LONG
• 2012 recipient of Marsh Award for Climate Change Research, British Ecological Society.
• 2012 recipient of Charles F. Kettering Award for Excellence in Photosynthesis Research, American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB).
• Invited Briefing to Bill Gates and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on opportunities to engineer photosynthesis for increased crop yields.
• Invited Expert on Food Security, to President’s Council of Advisors on Science Technology (P-CAST).
• PI to $3.2M award from the U.S. Department of Energy, PETROSS Program, in Plants Engineered To Replace Oil (PETRO) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; ARPA-E, linking Brookhaven National Laboratory, and Universities of Nebraska, Florida and Illinois. This is the first ARPA-E award led by the University of Illinois.
• Appointed to the Technical Advisory Committee on Biomass, reporting to the U.S. Secretary of Energy and to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.
• Elected Co-Chair, Gordon Research Conferences - CO2 Assimilation in Plants.

CLARA JEONG
Clara Jeong, Crop Sciences Ph.D. student and current NIH predoctoral fellow, was awarded a graduate student award to present her work at the Gordon Research Conference on Drinking Water DBPs (August 5-10, 2012) Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA. Clara also received an ACES Office of Research Travel award to the Gordon Research Conference.

JUSTIN PALS
Justin Pals, Crop Sciences Ph.D. student, was awarded a NIH predoctoral fellowship beginning August 2012. He was awarded a graduate student award to present his work at the Gordon Research Conference on Drinking Water DBPs (August 5-10, 2012) Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA. Justin also received a ACES Office of Research Travel award to the Gordon Research Conference.

MICHAEL PLEWA
• Was awarded the 2012 Environmental Mutagen Society Service Award for 4 decades of service to the society including serving as a Councilor, member of the Executive Board, twice Elected Treasurer, Program Chair for the 40th annual meeting and President of EMS in 2010. The award was presented at the 43rd EMS Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA, September 8-12, 2012.
• Vice-Chair of the Gordon Research Conference on Drinking Water DBPs (August 5-10, 2012), Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA and was elected as the Chair of the 2015 Gordon Research Conference.
• Just received a new KAUST grant ($375,844) (with Dr. Marinas, College of Engineering).

LISA AINSWORTH
Dr. Ainsworth was selected as a University Scholar for 2012-2013. The University Scholars Program was created to honor and reward outstanding teachers and scholars. She was nominated by her peers and selected from a pool of extremely talented nominees.

SARAH POTT
Ph.D. student Sarah Potts (advisor Rita Mumm) was selected as an ARCS Foundation Scholar for the academic term 2012-2013 by the ARCS Foundation, Chicago Chapter, based on her outstanding progress in her academic program. ARCS Foundation Scholars are selected from among the most promising and capable students who are committed to the pursuit of scientific excellence. Sarah will receive the award at the annual Scholar Awards Luncheon on October 25, 2012 at The Standard Club of Chicago in Chicago IL. Special honoree of the awards luncheon will be Chancellor Phyllis Wise—so Sarah will be in extraordinary company.
IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIOINFORMATICS AND BIOMEDICINE (BIBM); IEEE BIBM 2012

Place: Philadelphia USA; Date: October 4-7

Link: http://www.ischool.drexel.edu/ieeebibmbibm12/

Title of paper: Stress induces biphasic-rewiring and modularization patterns in the metabolomic networks of Escherichia coli; Code: B464

Authors: Fayez Aziz, Philemon Chan, Johan Osorio, Bushra Minhas, Vaisak Parekatt, and Gustavo Caetano -Anolles; Category: Computational Systems Biology

AG MASTERS CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 26-27, 2012, CHAMPAIGN, IL

2013 CORN & SOYBEAN CLASSICS

- January 7- Champaign I Hotel and Conference Ctr.
- January 8-Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn
- January 9-Springfield Crowne Plaza
- January 14-Peoria Par-A-Dice Hotel
- January 15-Moline i-wireless Center
- January 16-Malta Kishwaukee College

For information on the AG Masters Conference and Corn & Soybean Classics, visit cropseiconferences.com.

CULTIVATING THE FUTURE: TURNER HALL’S NEXT 50 YEARS

The Turner Hall Transformation Project is officially launched! On September 20, 2012, more than 100 alumni, faculty, students and friends of Illinois gathered at the lakeside home of Dr. Larry Hageman (’78 B.S. Ag. Science) in Rochelle, IL to publicly launch a $5 million campaign to raise funds for renovation of teaching laboratories and classrooms in Turner Hall. The campaign to raise $5 million in private funds is being matched with $5 million in state funding. State funds will initiate lab renovations and improve the exterior. Dr. Hageman generously sponsored this event as part of his volunteer involvement with the Turner Hall Project Steering Committee. Highlights of the evening included announcement of a $500,000 lead gift from Turner Hall Project co-chair William F. Kirk, Jr. (’64 B.S. Ag. Science) and his wife Lillian. Dr. A.W. “Tom” Burger, an esteemed crop science professor and mentor joined the celebration as an honored guest. For more information about how you can get involved, contact Marise Robbins-Forbes via email (mrforsbes@illinois.edu) or visit our website at http://advancement.aces.illinois.edu/turner.

Dr. Frank W. Kari Walkway and Ponds Restoration Project

The University of Illinois Arboretum was home to a grand celebration as the Dr. Frank W. Kari Walkway and Ponds Restoration Project was dedicated September 27, 2012. President Robert Easter, Dean Robert Hauser, campus administrators, faculty, students, donors and community members gathered with the Kari family to dedicate the beautiful new walkway that now weaves its way along the perimeter of restored ponds near Japan House. The three sisters of the late Dr. Frank W. Kari (’74 B.S. LAS Biology, ’77 M.S. Nutritional Sciences, ’81 Ph.D. Nutritional Sciences) gathered to view for the first time the nearly ½ mile walkway, benches, educational signage and ponds. Carolyn Kari (Washington, D.C.), Kathy Kari Speer and husband Scott Speer (Lisle, IL), and Frances Kari Schrader and husband George Boggs, Jr (Homewood, IL) traveled to campus to remember their father, Albert F. Kari (a horticulturist and nurseryman), as well as their brother who lost his battle to cancer in 2007. The project, made possible through the generous Kari family trust in Frank’s name, greatly enhances accessibility by providing safe and sturdy sidewalks around this living laboratory. It also enhances the Arboretum’s value as an outdoor classroom with the addition of 26,000 native plants. For more information, please email Bill Kruidenier at kruideni@illinois.edu.

Photo by Daniel Guico
Welcome to New Students!

- Ibetesam Ahmed, M.S. (K. Lambert, advisor)
- Olutoyosi Ajayi, Ph.D. (C. Bradley, advisor)
- Muhammad Fayez Aziz, Ph.D. (G. Caetano-Anolles, advisor)
- Talon Becker, Ph.D. (J. Juvik, advisor)
- Tryston Beyrer, M.S. (Below, advisor)
- Alex Brohammer, M.S. (M. Mikel/R. Mumm, advisors)
- Eric Brucker, Ph.D. (F. Kolb, advisor)
- Carolyn Butts, Ph.D. (R. Mumm, advisor)
- Usawadee Chaiprom, M.S. Bio., (M. Hudson, advisor)
- Hao-Xun Chang, Ph.D. (G. Hartman, advisor)
- Laura Chatham, M.S. (P. Tranel, advisor)
- Young (Brian) Cho, Ph.D. (L. Vodkin, advisor)
- Joseph Crawford, M.S. (T. Voigt, advisor)
- Konstantin Divilov, M.S. (D. Walker, advisor)
- Yuanjin Fang, Ph.D. (M. Hudson, advisor)
- Daniel Febrer, M.S. (M. Villamil, advisor)
- Justin Gifford, Ph.D. (J. Juvik, advisor)
- Sean Goretzkie, M.S. (S. Wortman, advisor)
- Janel Huffman, M.S. (A. Hager/D. Riechers, advisors)
- Nadezda Kholina, Ph.D. (G. Hartman, advisor)
- Sun Min Kim, Ph.D. (D.K. Lee, advisor)
- Jae Hong Lee, Ph.D. (F. Zhao, advisor)
- Moonsub Lee, Ph.D. (D.K. Lee/A.L. Rayburn, advisors)
- Meng Li, Ph.D. (A. Davis, advisor)
- Joseph Little, M.S. (M. Villamil/E. Nafziger, advisors)
- Qiong Liu, M.S. (D.K. Lee, advisor)
- Siyao Liu, M.S. (E. Sacks, advisor)
- John Marshall, M.S. (F. Below, advisor)
- Kelsey Mehl, M.S. (C. Bradley, advisor)
- Bushra Minhas, M.S. Bio. (G. Caetano-Anolles, advisor)
- Fizza Mughal, M.S. Bio. (G. Caetano-Anolles/M. Hudson, advisors)
- Michelle Pawlowski, M.S. (G. Hartman, advisor)
- Cody Postin, M.S. (S. Moose, advisor)
- Preston Schrader, M.S. (M. Gray, advisor)
- Joshua Skelton, Ph.D. (D. Riechers, advisor)
- Brad Sorensen, M.S. (F. Fernandez, advisor)
- Stephen Swarm, Ph.D. (R. Nelson, advisor)
- Joshua Vonk, Ph.D. (E. Nafziger, advisor)
- Ross Wagstaff, Ph.D. (S. Wortman, advisor)
- Sufei Wang, M.S. (R. Nelson, advisor)
- Russell Ward, Ph.D. (B. Diers, advisor)
- Holly Warren, M.S. (E. Nafziger, advisor)
- Chong (Neil) Yu, Ph.D. (B. Diers, advisor)

Data Support at the Library

Sarah Williams, the Life Sciences Data Services Librarian, is available to assist ACES researchers with data needs. With a bachelor’s degree in Soil and Crop Science, Sarah has a particular interest in working with Crop Sciences researchers. She maintains a Life Sciences Data Services website (http://www.library.illinois.edu/lsdata/) with resources for creating data management plans, information about data repositories, and a feed for life sciences data news. Sarah is also willing to work with researchers to create or implement a data management plan, to identify potential repositories to submit or acquire data, or to discuss other data needs. You can contact her by calling 333-8916 or emailing scwillms@illinois.edu.

Enjoy a Taste of Campus Tradition

The Illini Union Ballroom lunch buffet is the perfect setting to take candidates, gather for a working lunch, or celebrate a milestone. Selections include hot entrees, a fresh salad bar and deli, soups, and desserts. The buffet is open to all, and the price of $9.95 (or 9.95 Extra Credits) includes dessert, beverage, and sales tax. Seniors (age 65 & above) receive a discounted lunch rate of $8.94 (or 8.94 Extra Credits). Children age 12 and under can have lunch for $5.00 (or 5.00 Extra Credits). Children age 4 or under eat for free. Pay by cash, check, credit card, Extra Credits, or department account number. Reservations are accepted but not required (244-4261).

Come experience the classic on-campus dining choice!

www.housing.illinois.edu/ballroom
Field and Furrow Club Events

Last semester members of the club toured Dow AgroSciences in Indianapolis (picture on right), traveled to Ames, IA for the Regional SASES meeting, participated in the IPM Contest, prepared seed sets for local high schools, provided lunch for the State FFA Contest, and created exhibits for ExplorACES and the Mom’s Day Garden Show. The club also invited Leonard Gianessi from CropLife Foundation to host a seminar about pesticides for crop production and Gale Cunningham from WIXY Classic Radio to discuss the importance of an agriculture degree. To cap off a great spring semester, Field and Furrow Club was named the outstanding club in the College of ACES.

During the fall semester Field and Furrow started off with our annual Fall Callout. In addition, we have already sold mums for our annual fundraising event and had fun going putt-putt golfing. We will still participate in various philanthropy activities, travel to Cincinnati, OH for the National SASES meetings, and provide other social opportunities for the members.

Sondra Monier
Reporter

Birth Announcements

Ar Ar, son of Abbasali ‘Ali” Ravanlou and wife Leila, was born on July 16, 2012. Ar Ar weighed 8 lbs. and was 20.75 inches long.

Caitlyn Marie, daughter of Josh and Sarah Potts, was born on April 30. Caitlyn measured 21 inches and weighed in at 7 lbs. 8 oz.

Lillian “Lilly” Jolee Sarver, granddaughter of Patty Sarver, was born on June 18. Lilly weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. and was 19 inches long. Lilly’s parents, Matt & Joie Sarver, live in St. Joseph, just 8 blocks from grandma!

Macie Anne, daughter of Kristin and Chris Greer, was born on September 6. Macie weighed in at 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20.5” long.

Artien, son of Abbasali ‘Ali” Ravanlou and wife Leila, was born on July 16, 2012. Artien weighed 8 lbs. and was 20.75 inches long.
The Department of Crop Sciences PIEFEST is Friday, October 12, from 2:00-4:00 PM in the Heritage Room, ACES Library. Presentations will start at 2:30 PM.

The Department’s HOLIDAY PARTY is Thursday, December 13, at the Levis Faculty Center.

Congratulations to Recent Crop Sciences Graduates!

May 2012
- Ryan Becker, M.S. (F. Below, advisor)
- Ross Bender, M.S. (F. Below, advisor)
- Carolyn M. Bonin, Ph.D. (B. Diers, advisor)
- Bernarda Calla Zalles, Ph.D. (S. Clough, advisor)
- Brian A. Carden, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- James J. DeDecker, M.S. (J. Masiunas, advisor)
- Perri B. Draisey, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Nicholas Eisenmenger, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Andrew Hauck, Ph.D., (M. Bohn, advisor)
- Nicholas E. Hausman, M.S. (A. Hager, advisor)
- Adam S. Henninger, M.S. (F. Below, advisor)
- SuMin Kim, M.S. (D.K. Lee, advisor)
- Shin-Yi Marzano, Ph.D. (D. Eastburn, advisor)
- Blake Meentemeyer, M.S. (B. Branham, advisor)
- Josh Merryman, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Katherine Moore, M.S. (J. Masiunas, advisor)
- Timothy Pruski, Ph.D. (B. Diers, advisor)
- Todd Robran, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Joshua J. Skelton, M.S. (B. Branham, advisor)
- Xiaochun Sun, Ph.D. (R. Mumm, advisor)

August 2012
- Ramya Vittal, Ph.D. (G. Hartman, advisor)
- Tyson Walters, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Guirong Zhang, Ph.D. (C. Bradley, advisor)
- Won Byoung Chae, Ph.D. (J. Juvik, advisor)
- Jason W. Haegele, Ph.D. (F. Below, advisor)
- Sushma Jossey, Ph.D. (L. Domier, advisor)
- Syed Abbas Bukhari, M.S. Bio. (G. Caetano-Anolles, advisor)
- Justin M. Gifford, M.S. (J. Juvik, advisor)
- Angela Huisinga, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Stefanie Lutmer, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Joshua A. Macke, M.S. (R. Mumm, advisor)
- Brian D. Mansfield, M.S. (R. Mumm, advisor)
- Arshan Nasir, M.S. Bio. (G. Caetano-Anolles, advisor)
- Jennifer Osiol, M.S. (M. Plewa, advisor)
- Ting Peng, M.S. (R. Mumm, advisor)
- Brian Price, M.S. (Y. Hanzawa, advisor)
- Sarah Sexton, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Audrey Vaughn, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)